

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISTANB 02633 01 OF 02 060535Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 /068 W  
-----003037 060548Z /13

R 051217Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9107  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL IZMIR

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 ISTANBUL 2633

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, TU  
SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEW OGVERNMENT

SUMMARY: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS REACTION IN ISTANBUL GENERALLY NEGATIVE AMONG BUSINESSMEN, LABOR LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS TO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. DESPITE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT ECEVIT'S REPUBLIC PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) ENJOYS HERE, HOWEVER, SO FAR THERE SEEMS TO BE GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WHICH IT IS NOTED WAS FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTION. NOTABLE EXCEPTION, OF COURSE, ARE MILITANT LEFTIST GROUPS WHO, IN ADDITION TO RECENT BOMBINGS, WERE REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING TWO RIGHTIST YOUTHS THIS WEEK. ON OTHER HAND CONGEN FOUND GROUP OF POLICE OFFICERS ELATED OVER DEMIREL VICTORY IN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF PARTISAN SENTIMENT.  
OTHERWISE, FEW HERE SEEM OPTIMISTIC THAT DEMIREL GOVERNMENT CAN SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE MANY PRESSING PROBLEMS TURKEY FACES. MOST ANTICIPATE POLITICAL VIOLENCE WILL GET WORSE AND THEY DO NOT EXPECT COALITION WILL LAST LONG. IMMEDIATE THREAT TO GOVERNMENT POSED BY GENERAL STRIKE, HOWEVER, MAY NOT MATERIALIZE OR HAVE MINIMUM IMPACT IN VIEW OF TOP UNION LEADERS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR SUCH PROTEST. CRITICISM OF ECEVIT ESPECIALLY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ISTANB 02633 01 OF 02 060535Z

IN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES HAS PROMPTED TALK THAT RPP LEADER CAN EXPECT INTERNAL CHALLENGE TO HIS LEADERSHIP. END

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF ISTANBUL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE FOUND LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR NEW GOVERNMENT; WE BELIEVE THIS DUE IN LARGE PART TO ANTIPATHY TOWARD COALITION PARTNER, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY

(NSP). MANY SEE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AS TEMPORARY PHENOMENA, AND WISHFULLY HOPE FOR GRAND COALITION BETWEEN DEMIREL'S JUSTICE PARTY AND RPP WHICH THEY FEEL IS ONLY STABLE ALTERNATIVE UNDER CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY ARITHMETIC. THERE ARE HARD DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AREA ON WHICH A NUMBER OF BUSINESSMEN SEEM RELATIVELY CONFIDENT THAT THIS GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORCED TO MAKE. (AS EMBASSY POINTS OUT IN ANKARA 5707, THESE ARE AT SAME TIME DECISIONS WHICH WILL PUT GREAT STRESS ON UNITY OF COALITION.) NUMBER OF THEM WERE GLAD TO SEE RPP FINANCE MINISTER USTUNEL LEAVE. SO FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED ANY CHANGE WAS ONE FOR BETTER. ON PROSPECT OF TURK-IS-ENGINEERED GENERAL STRIKE, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT BUSINESSMEN HERE AND ESPECIALLY SOME INDUSTRIALISTS, SURPRISINGLY UNCONCERNED. GIVEN CURRENT PERIOD OF ELECTRICITY SHORTAGES, IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND WORKER VACATIONS WHICH HAVE CUT PRODUCTION DRastically, SOME ALMOST WELCOME PROSPECT OF SHUTTING DOWN THEIR PLANTS. A SIDE BENEFIT MIGHT ALSO BE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSERVE STOCKS OF MATERIALS AS HEDGE AGAINST INFLATIONARY TRENDS AND FUTURE CURRENCY DEVALUATIONS WHICH WIDELY EXPECTED.

2. CITY'S INTELLIGENTSIA SEEM PARTICULARLY DEPRESSED OVER ECEVIT'S FAILURE TO CARRY OFF THEIR LONG-ANTICIPATED RESTORATION TO INFLUENCE. ALTHOUGH IT ALSO COMES TO SOME EXTENT FROM OTHER CIRCLES, THE MOST SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE RPP CHAIRMAN'S MISTAKES IN HIS ATTEMPT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT COME FROM THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ISTANB 02633 01 OF 02 060535Z

GROUP. THIS ACUTE DISAPPOINTMENT IN ECEVIT BY LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS HAS SPARKED RUMORS THAT HE MAY HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING CONTROL OF THE RPP. PROFESSORS ARE DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC THAT CLASHES BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WILL BECOME EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR. THERE IS SOME GUARDED HOPE THAT THE NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WHO IS GENERALLY WELL REGARDED, WILL DO BETTER THAN HIS PREDECESSOR AT RESTRAINING POLITICAL VIOLENCE. BUT MOST OBSERVERS HERE EXPECT THE SECOND NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A WORSE STUDENT VIOLENCE PROBLEM THAN THE FIRST.

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02633 02 OF 02 060543Z

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 051217Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 ISTANBUL 2633

3. CONGEN OFFICERS FOUND INTERESTING EXCEPTION TO GENERALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO NEW GOVERNMENT. GROUP OF FIRST SECTION POLICE WE ENTERTAINED A FEW HOURS AFTER VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WERE OPENLY JUBILANT OVER DEMIREL'S SUCCESS. THEY STRONGLY BELIEVED JP CHAIRMAN WAS BEST MAN TO COMBAT "COMMUNIST" THREAT. THEIR VIEWS PARALLEL NEW GOVERNMENT'S ANALYSIS IN ITS PROGRAM THAT POLITICAL VIOLENCE WAS DUE TO COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE TURKISH DEMOCRACY. WE WOULD EXPECT THESE POLICEMEN, WHO ARE ON FRONT LINES OF TURKEY'S STRUGGLE AGAINST POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND HAVE SEEN MANY IN THEIR RANKS KILLED IN ENCOUNTERS WITH LEFTIST MILITANTS, TO BE ILL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE LEFT. HOWEVER, THIS RARE (FOR TURKISH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) DISPLAY OF PARTISAN SENTIMENT DID LITTLE TO SHORE UP OUR HOPES THAT ISTANBUL POLICE WILL SHOW THE EVEN-HANDED LAW ENFORCEMENT NECESSARY TO AVOID EXACERBATING THE CITY'S POLITICAL VIOLENCE PROBLEM.

4. MOST SERIOUS THREAT SINCE FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO US TO COME FROM ORGANIZED LABOR WHEN TURK-IS LEADER HALIL TUNC'S RAISED SPECTER OF GENERAL STRIKE (ANKARA 5303). DESPITE BUSINESSMEN'S LACK OF CONCERN MENTIONED ABOVE, SUCH ACTION BY TURK-IS' ONE MILLION PLUS MEMBERS COULD CAUSE GOVERNMENT REAL PROBLEMS. OUR RECENT SOUNDINGS OF TURK-IS  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ISTANB 02633 02 OF 02 060543Z

UNION LEADERS INDICATE HOWEVER, THAT TUNC WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY SELLING GENERAL STRIKE TO HIS AFFILIATED UNIONS. PRESIDENT OF TURK-IS FOOD PROCESSING WORKERS' UNION (TEKGIDA-IS) WHICH IS LARGEST IN CONFEDERATION, TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT, ALTHOUGH HE SHARES TUNC'S OBJECTIONS TO NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP) AND NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) PARTICIPATION IN COALITION AND STRONGLY FAVORS A GRAND COALITION, HE OPPOSES IDEA OF GENERAL STRIKE. UNPICAL WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS, AND VENTURED TO PREDICT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO GENERAL STRIKE. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF TURK-IS IN ISTANBUL FELT THAT TUNC WOULD GET THE NECESSARY VOTES IN THE 41-MEMBER

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE BUT STATED IT  
WOULD PROBABLY LAST MAXIMUM ONE DAY AND PERHAPS ONLY A FEW HOURS.

5. TO HAVE GREATEST IMPACT, GENERAL STRIKE WOULD NEED TO  
INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF TURKEY'S SECOND LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION,  
TURK-IS, ARCH RIVAL, THE LEFTIST DISK CONFEDERATION. TURK-IS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BY RAZOR-THIN MARGIN, VOTED TO CONSIDER  
BOTH GENERAL STRIKE AND DISK'S PROPOSAL THAT THE TWO CONFEDERA-  
TIONS COOPERATE IN OPPOSING NATIONAL FRONT. ALL THREE LABOR  
LEADERS MENTIONED ABOVE STRONGLY REJECTED ANY POSSIBILITY THAT  
TURK-IS  
WOULD COOPERATE WITH "COMMUNIST" DISK. THERE ARE OTHER MAJOR  
TURK-IS UNIONS IN ISTANBUL AREA FROM SO-CALLED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
GROUP WHO WILL LIKELY SUPPORT GENERAL STRIKE PROPOSAL AND PERHAPS  
ENDORSE DISK PARTICIPATION IN IT. IMPORTANT PETROLEUM WORKERS'  
UNION (PETROL-IS) MAY BE ONE OF THESE. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION,  
HOWEVER, IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF TURK-IS UNIONS HERE ARE READY  
TO CLIMB OUT OF POLITICAL ARENA, AND, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME  
BEING, ACCEPT DEMIREL'S PARLIAMENTARY VICTORY. FOOD WORKERS'  
PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT LIKE NEW  
GOVERNMENT THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT IT WAS LEGITIMATELY  
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PAGE 03 ISTANB 02633 02 OF 02 060543Z

AND THEY HAVE DEEP COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF  
TURKISH DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PDEV, TU  
**To:** STATE  
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